
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

NEWS

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NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

Contact: Delores Clark
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MEDIA ADVISORY
June 15, 2004

**PROCEDURE TO REMOVE FISH HOOK FROM HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL IS
SCHEDULED TODAY**

Media Briefing this afternoon

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has assembled a team of veterinarians to perform an exploratory procedure today to locate and remove a fish hook from an adult male Hawaiian monk seal that was first observed last week on Kauai with fishing line trailing from its mouth. About 15 feet of fishing line and a leader were removed from the animal before he was airlifted to Oahu by the U.S. Coast Guard last Friday. The seal rested comfortably at NOAA's Kewalo Research facility over the weekend. This morning he was transported to the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station laboratory for the procedure. A progress report will be provided this afternoon.

WHAT: Briefing and Media Availability

WHEN: 3 p.m., Tuesday, June 15

WHERE: Pacific War Memorial, Kaneohe Marine Air Station, near H-3 GuardHouse
NOTE: MEDIA SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE AT THE GUARDHOUSE BY 2:30PM. MEDIA WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE MEMORIAL GROUNDS FOR SET-UP. Call Delores Clark, 532-6411, to confirm participation.

WHO: Margaret Akamine, NOAA Fisheries protected species policy analyst
Dr. Robert Braun, NOAA contract veterinarian
Others TBA